THE CONTEST WITH ERIE.

LEGAL SPARRING-THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AC-SES MR. SHEARMAN OF MISREPRESENTA TION-THE FRIENDS OF THE PRESENT BOARD ONE THOUSAND ELMIRA VOTERS DEMAND JAY GOULD & CO. BETAINED-EDIFYING AR-IBT TRLEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

ALBANY, Feb. 28 .- The Assembly Committee Railroads met this afternoon to hear argument of the preceedings began Attorney-General Barlow destred to say a few words in personal explanation of cern accusations made against him by Thos. G. Shear new accession and the counsel for the Eric Road, at the last team, one of the counsel for the Eric Road, at the last useding of the Committee, which were lately published, receivership in the suit of Carpenter

charging him (the Attorney-General) with having sought Market Savinge Bank. Leave being granted, Gen. Bar-lew read a written statement which he said had been sensel in that matter, who fully agreed with what was written. The statement denies all the allegations made. putation upon his veracity with great fortitude, though he made an effort to justify himself by asserting that his He had made the statement at the request of Wm. C. nformation from that Judge himself, and Judge around had said he was sorry he could not ome here to make the statement himself. The Commit see then proceeded to business. Judge Smith of Elmira sent here with Lucius Robinson and other to represent the views of the citizens of Elmira. He expeeled that Mr. Robinson would have been here to speak, but in his absence he would like to say something him-

THE CITIZENS OF ELMIRA IN PAVOL OF THE PRESENT

He then read from a written paper, in substance as follows: We are here as representatives of 1,000 eters of Limira, who feel that they have a legitimate night to be heard on this subject as citizens of the State particularly that bill relating to the Eric Road with which they are satisfied. The change may Under the old management up to 1867 the wack and the rolling stock were allowed to get in such of the road be made again only to pay dividends, instead tall into the same dangerous and unsafe condition again ble condition to the best; it has as good road bed and track bave any knowledge. It has appeared from a suit in which Mr. Fisk was concerned, that only \$54,000,000 out Die decay. We have in Elmira 600 men cuployed in the manufacture of rails used on this road, and if these forarks, which looked very much as though he desired impress the Committee with the belief that represented only the pure and undefiled country districte, but really succeeded in showing himself only too well acquainted with municipal He concluded by carnestly protesting, on behalf of that vast multitude of "1,000 Elmira voters, against any bill siming at a change in the present man gement of Eric which would alter the present policy i the interest of the public to a policy in the interest of dividends and shareholders. To a question of Mr. Southmayd as to how many of the thousand Elmiriaus men Stened obtained their livelihood from the Eric Railway prefessed ignorance. In answer to one of the mmittee who asked, "if you were a stockholder the officers and directors who were injuring

make my stock beneficial to myself in the usual way provided in the by-laws of the corporation; I should not come my defeat by an act of the Legislature." casm would have been better appreciated if Judge Smith had pointed out how the by-laws could he made to sid by the Common Council of that city, opposing the rep of the Classification Act. MR. SOUTHMAYD'S ANSWER The Chairman desired to know, if the convertible bonds have a preference ever the stock, and draw inter est, what is the inducement to turn these bonds into

stock ! Mr. Southmayd said, in answer: The pretense werld; they had a right to borrow money and issue bonds for it, and the law gave them incidental priviteges, when they borrowed \$1,000 for the purpose of constructing or operating their road, to give the lender privilege of turning it into stock at any time, the idea being that sometimes the stock may rise above par, and it would be to the interest of the lender to dispose of it It is a perfect evasion of the law; they never horrowed money on these bonds, but went through the sham of pretending to issue bonds, which were immediately turned into stock. Mr. Shearman said: It makes no difference whether the process was real or a sham, the bonds were really issued. This very question as to the legality of the issue of the bonds was considered by the the gentleman's partner, Mr. Evarte, at one time, and he advised that it was proper to defend the legality of it. Mr. Southmayd-That statement is utterly untrue

Mr. Shearman-The firm of Everts, Southmayd & Choate received \$15,000 from the Eric Railway Company

Mr. Shearman-The gentleman's partner agreed with us that whatever may be the morality of the transaction been by this time sufficiently called in question, he wa allowed to proceed uninterruptedly.) If you took the bonds as an interestment to pay interest year by year you the read sould not have paid them, they would have attempted to put the road into bankruptey It would have been sold for just enough to pay the mort gates on the material. The stock was valuable because there was always a speculative demand for that; it is one of the linest speculative stocks on the street, since it Specular ve move me at in the stock, and these converts ble kends were sold at about 72. That was under th hast preceding fdirection. It was carried as high as 83, and the persons who bought the convertible bonds ex-changed them for stock, which they sold at a profit. I don't leny that there has been all manner of charges feating around about this management, as there are atthict other persons, but the interest has been paid, and the mockholders are negtening to get dividends.

Mr. Ebentual then produced a statement already puband, as wing tent the proceeds of the bonds and stock 2s and by the Cur. pany, and the expenditures from Oct. 1, 1867, to 1871 in \$21,764,703. \$250e branch lines are generally aresed by the Company in an inefficient state, and is is necessary to expect a large amount of money in templeting them. The is charged to the amount payahave or ned to a very, without which its budness could tempunies, whereby they saved a great deal. There was a flureing order of \$1,50,000; there was no flureion but to the present officers said that. The Money was deducted in advance. They only received about \$15,000,000. I believe as much as \$5,200,000 was due Daniel Dreaglic present flow ingreate has been contracted for others matters. The double track has increased in miles; increase is the number of engines, 69; of cars, \$2.57. I manifes these things to show that something has been done with this money. We utterly deny the power of the tegrislature to pass this law. The directors have certain visted rights. They have pecuniary and other interests in these offices. You cannot effect contract made under that charter. tracts made under that charter.

Mr. Southmayd said: The people who come here to op-

ALBANY.

cause it helps their interests. I have known Mr. Lucius Robinson for many years, and I do not think if he understood their whole object he would avow himself an advocate of principles so utterly dishonest and shameless. In asking his measure of relief we have not dealt in matters of vague rumor; we have not pulled from our pockets statements made up by mobody knows who, but have laid before you evidence of the misconduct of the managers of the Erie road, and it happens that our case rests on matters in the shape of legal evidence. We show you out of their own mounts that there is a deficiency of \$47,000,000 in the capital account, and they have used up the entire income of this road for four years, and made it produce nothing. For the \$47,000,000 we have one account—it is sent by Jay Gould—and we are enabled to show you that the only authentic account we have is utterly false. It is made up by swelling the item of \$28,000,000 in the former reports to the fictions amount, \$86,000,000. This is confessed by them to be fictions.

ports to the fictions amount, \$85,000,000. This is confessed by them to be fictions.

Mr. Shearman—Will the gentlemen assert that this \$85,000,000 was sold at par ? Mr. Southmayd—No, Sir ? it could not have been sold at par. The only information on the subject is contained in the books of the Eric Com-

Then we have \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000 for the first \$10,000,000 of bends issued, and \$6,000,000 of new mortgage bonds, which were alien on this road.

Jay Gould comes here and says we are not entitled to know what the assets consist of. We are only the owners of this road, and we have no right to inquire about our own property. These shareholders are not, however, only Englishmen. There are upward of \$10,000,000 owned by Anoricans, but of course it is not right that we should want to know what has become four money! Do these books and accounts belong to Jay Gould and the directors! What are they but stewards, bound to render an account of their stewards, bound to render an account of their stewards bound to render a for you stockholders and owners of the Company, what right have you to know anything about it! The Committee will bear in mind that deap properties on the stock shalled at \$0. That was then the proprietary interest of the Company, Whereflave theybought it! By their own showing they have added \$27,000,000 to the stock in debt. The \$25,000,000 produced \$100,000,000, and sold at \$0. Whe ther this state of things comes from dishonesty or incapability, we have a right to ack you for a charge. We don't prefer see he doubt which it dionesty or incapability, we have a right to ask you a change. We don't profess to be in doubt which it it is a combination of both; we claim that this mis-

The following amendments to the Eric Classification act were submitted to the Judiciary Committee of the act were submitted to the Juniciary Committee of the Senate at their session this afternoon, and referred by them for consideration with the bill:

Within thirt days from the passage of this set the Chief Justice of the Court of Appends of the State shall appoint three commissioners whose that it shall be to examine the books and accounts of the Eric Railway Company, and to find cett, as near as possible, the amount publy the stockholders of said Company into its treasury, and actually and in good faith expended by and Company either in the construction or equipment of its road, and said commissioners shall report to said Chief Justice within 60 days from the time they accord their appointment as such commissioners the

THE CHARTER IN THE SENATS—OPPORTUNITY FOR SUGGESTIONS—THE BUSINESS—RAILROAD CHARGES—THE KILIAN-FREAR CONTEST—RE-CONSTRUCTION IN BROOKLYN—ANOTHER IN-VESTIGATION—HARBOR-MASTER AND STREET OPENING TO BE LOOKED INTO. [FROM THE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, Feb. 28 .- The Charter of the Committe of Seventy now goes into the hands of the Senate Committee on Cities. It is probable that they will hold their first meeting for its consideration on Friday. They propose to give several hearings to all interested in the matter, which will consume most of next week. The bill can scarcely be reported for the action of the Senate following are the names of the Senate Committee: Mr. Palmer of Duchess, Chairman; Messrs. Benedict, Weisann and Tiemann of New-York; Perry of Brooklyn, Adams of Albany, and Chatfield of Tioga. These gentlemen will undoubtedly give the bill it is undoubtedly a fact that a majority of the members of the Assembly are not of the opinion that this charter is the best that could be devised for New-York. Some object to one feature, and some to another. To say nothing of the time that would be required to perfect a bill which would satisfy the opponents of the present one, and the extreme difficulty of accomplishing a work of this kind, the substitute would still lack the strong indorsement which the Committee of Seventy have secured for their instrument. As Gov. Alvord frankly con fessed, the opposition to the Seventy's is without form and void. The prevailing feeling is now undoubtedly in out of the way, leaving the Committee of Seventy to take the responsibility. It now becomes the duty of the citizens of the metropolis to prepare for the coming election, which can hardly fail to throw more light on the wisdom and fitness of the new charter than ter thousand such discussions as those we have witnessed

When the order of the introduction of petitions was reached in the Assembly this morning there was a perfect flood of remonstrances against legislative inter ference with the Erie Railway management. The storm is clearly approaching, and the Erie Ring are straining every nerve. The agents of the Ring are constantly in the city, and they will spare nothing to save themselves from exposure and ruin. There also appeared in the Assembly to-day the first of the merchants' petitions for a law to regulate the charges of railroad companies. Whatever may be the moving principle at the bottom of these memorials, the management of the great trunk lines, as regards local freight charges, is certainly unjust and injurious to the interests of the State. The decennial increase of population in the State of New-York is now confined to the great cities and their suburbs, and to the smaller cities and towns which are so situated as to have the advantage of competing lines of transportation, thus enabling them to secure moderate rates of carriage for the articles of their production and consumption.

portation, thus enabling them to secure moderate rates of carriage for the articles of their production and consumption.

The Assembly to-day voted to procure see copies of the Clerk's Manual, provided they could be obtained at a dollar each. The old price has been \$2 and \$2.25, but the evidence taken by the Printing Committee shows that the smaller price affords a liberal profit. The Committee on Privileges have presented a report in the contested clection case of Killan agt. Frear, giving the seat to the former. The two Democrats on the Committee obtained leave to present a minority report. The majority report shows the perpetration of a fraud in the XXVth Election District, by means of which the decision of the majority of voters was reversed, and the seat which rightfully belonged to Mr. Killan, who will undoubtedly be instated in the Assembly next Friday, when this matter comes up as a special order.

Mr. Morton of Brooklyn introduced four bills, which seem to contemplate a thorough reconstruction of the government of that city. The first creates a Department of Charities and Correction, and abolishes the present of Charities and Correction, and abolishes the present commissioners of Charities. The second establishes a Department of Police and Health. The third reorganizes the Fire Department, and the fourth the Excise Department, Mr. Feley presented a bill releasing the interest of the people of the State in a certain biling aley to the Five Points House of Industry. At present neither the House of Industry nor the city has any title to this alloy-way. Mr. Golb offers a bill to regulate the class ges for the transportation of milk and milk-cans; and Mr. Healey another to prevent the sale of adulterated milk in the cities of New York and Brooklyn. Gov. Alvord introduced a bill which allowed the sale of adulterated milk in the cities of New York and Brooklyn. Gov. Alvord introduced a bill which allowed the sale of adulterated milk in the cities of New York and Brooklyn. Gov. Alvord introduced a bill which a

Phot Commissioners of the Port of New-York and the other of the Department of the Corporation Counsel of that city—particularly as regards street openings. The resolution for the latter went over, but the Committee of Commerce and Navigation was intrusted with the Harbor-Master's.

In the Senate there was also a flood of Eric Ring peta

NEW-YORK. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1872.

tions, together with three or four for the repeal of the Classification act. There were also some to protect the trading public from the extortions of railway companies. The Druggists' bill to regulate the practice of pharmacy and the sale of poisons in New-York City was passed, with only a single vote in the negative. The bill does away with the present Board of Examiners. The Senate was chiefly occupied in the consideration of local bills, in Committee, of no general interest.

The Senate Excise Committee gave a hearing to several citizens from various parts of the State, among them exsenator O'Donnel, on the bills before the Legislature on the liquor question. Most of the speakers favored the proposition for local prohibition—that is to submit the question of license or no license to the people of the towns and villages throughout the State.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS. SENATE ... ALBANY, Feb. 28, 1872.

A bill was reported for the protection of taxby the Governor, and amended to meet his objections. Also one relating to Courts of Record and other Courts in New-York. It authorizes Judges of Marine Courts and Sessions Courts to appoint, and remove clerks; the Judges of all Courts to appoint officers and stenographers. A bill restricting the power of the City of Brooklyn to issue bonds, or loan its credit for local improvements, was also reported. It limits the amount for local improvements to \$2,800,000 at any time, and for water and sewerage to \$2,200,000. Also one to regulate the fees of County Clerks except in Kings and New-York Counties. For searching and certifying, five cents for each year, and ten cents for each incumbrance; docketing judgments, two defendants, not less than 60 cents; docketing and transcribing, 25 cents.

BILLS PASSED.

Reappropriating a certain portion of the income of the United States Deposit Fund for the benefit of academics. It appropriates \$1,500 to purchase books and apparatus.

To regulate the practice of pharmacy and the sale of poisons in the City of New-York. It abolishes the present Board of Examiners, and confers on the College of Pharmacy the appointment of examiners; the penalties for violating the act to go to the college.

The Cary Cross-town Railroad bill was recommitted to the Committee on Railroads. The bill in relation to petit jurors for the County Court and Court of Sessions in Westchester County was ordered to a third reading. Adjourned. Also one relating to Courts of Record and other Courts

Mr. Jupp presented a memorial from the shipowners' agents and shipmasters of New-York, askand extertions to which they are subjected by the Board of Pilot Commissioners. The memorial is signed by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company; Spofford Brothers; F. Alexandre & Sons; Atlantic Mail Steamship Company; Sparks; Boyd Hincken & Co.; Williams & Guion, and many others.

The bill incorporating the Manhattan Accommodation
Company was lost by 30 to 64. A motion to reconsider

The bill incorporating the manner of the consider was laid on the table.

RILS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Mackay—To incorporate the Young Men's Universalist Association of New-York, which names as incorporators the Rev. E. H. Chapin, the Rev. E. C. Sweeiser, Win. A. Miles, Walter Scott, Murroe Grane, E. Streeter Brooks, William H. King, Horace Greeley, and several

Mr. Eastman—Incorporating the Poughkeepsie Female

others.

Mr. Kastman—Incorporating the Poughkeepsie Female Guardian Society.

Mr. Morros—To create in Kings County a Department of Public Charities in Brooklyn; also, to reorganize the Fire Department of Brooklyn.

Mr. Healty—To prevent the sale of adulterated milk in New-York and Brooklyn.

Mr. Hammen—To abolish imprisonment for debt.

Mr. Hammen—To abolish imprisonment for debt.

Mr. Hammen—To abolish imprisonment for debt.

Mr. Hamen—Prescribing the powers and duties of coroners in the City and County of New-York.

Mr. Alvord—Relative to the rate of interest. It is a copy of the Massachusetts law, except that it fixes the rate of interest at 7 instead of 6 per cent, and abolishes the Usury law. In the absence of an agreement, the interest will be 7 per cent. An agreement to pay a greater rate of interest will not be good unless in writing, and when it is in writing it can be collected.

Mr. Judd—To extend the time for the collection of taxes in Riebmond County. On his motion the bill was read a third time, and passed.

Mr. Judd also introduced a bill to provide a suitable testimonial for each officer and soldier who served during the war of the Rebellion, similar to the menorials.

e yesterday. THE KILIAN-FREAR CONTESTED SEAT.

trict, and as such is callided to the seat new occupied by the Hop. Alex.

On the motion of D. B. Hill the report was laid on the table and made the special order for Friday at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Hill also announced that Mr. Moscley and himself, the minority of the Committee, dissented, and would submit a minority report.

ANOTHER INVESTIGATION PROPOSED.

Mr. HAIGHT offered the following, which was laid over: Resolved. That the Jodiciary Committee he instructed to investigate the Department of the Commet to the Corporation of Rew York, particularly the Bureau of Street Openings; the appointment and names of commissioners therefor: the expresses of the same and the payment thereof: awards made, and the names and duties of all persons connected therewith during the whole term of effice of the present incumbent.

On motion of Mr. Jacons, the report of the Committee on Ways and Means on the charges against the Commis-

On motion of Mr. Jacobs, the report of the Commissioners and Superintendent of the new Capitol was reade the special order for Monday evening next.

CHARGES AGAINST THE HARBOR-MASTERS.

Mr. JUDD othered the following, which was adopted:

Whereas, Charges and complisate have been made sgainst the action of the Harbor-Masters and Pilot Commissioners of the port of New-York, in their official capacity: of the Harner-Manters and store in their official capacity; in their official capacity; if Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce and Mavigation be, and bereby are anthorized to investigate such charges and complainte, with power to send for persons and papers. Adjourned.

MORE RED POSTAGE-STAMP CURRENCY.

Sin: While you are elucidating the great Red Postage Stamp question, why don't you inquire how many documents of that sort Mr. "R. P. S." Cushman contrived to put in circulation through his family There is a firm here in Syracuse which still uses Red Stamps for its correspondence, sent them in payment of a bill two years since by a brother-in-law who deals in farm implements in Utlea. The amount of the bill was Why don't you also smoke out Mr. Terwilliger's pos

why user yed also smoke out Mr. Terwillinger's postage-stamp defections? They are far worse than the 20
per cent business. He is here now, and seems utterly
broken down, though his friends still prate about the
wicked attempt to destroy his reputation.

ANTI RED POSTAGE-STAMP.

Syracuse, N. Y., Feb. 27, 1872.

A "CORNER" IN WHISKY.

Lorrsville, Feb. 28 .- One of the greatest whisky transactions in the history of the trade was de reloped here to-day. It appears that the firm of S. P. Suit & Co. have effectually cornered the market in old whiskies. It is said they have been planning this movewhiskies. It is said they have been planning this movement for months, and have at length succeeded in accomplishing their object. Nowcomb, Buchanan & Co, acting as commission merchants for Suit & Co, have bought up all the available stocks of whiskies in the United States, which, of course, includes about all in the world. Their purchases in New-York City alone amount to over \$1,000,000, and the aggregate amount will reach about \$3,000,000. This purchase embraces nearly all valundle old whiskies in the market, and it will probably affect the price of all other grades. It is the largest and most important whisky transaction ever known in this country. Among the heaviest purchases was the stock of Charles Backman of New-York, which consists of 1,600 barrels, accumulated since 1867, together with other stocks in this State and in different parts of the country.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

... The steamship Parthia, damaged on Tuesday by callision, will be detained in Liverpool some, days for repairs.

The Muryland Woman's Equal Rights Association is in session in Militages, Miss Lavinia Dundore in the chair. A Russian spy has been detected at Lemberg,
Austra, skeeping the fortifications, and condemned to a year's imprison-

.The dwelling-house of Artemas Cummings, in

The International Society is reported to be due strikes in Vienna, with the object of preventing the International Society of Preventing the International Society of Preventing the International Society (International Society International Inte Reposition there.

Just before leaving for the East, the Japanese Just before leaving for the bandsome sum of \$5,000 for

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture a year 1870 has just been issued. It makes a volume of nearly 760 . Five of the crew of the wrecking tug B. and J.

Five of the crew of the size were denoted in the surfact linds related to a schooler in distress.

Edward Fenner was killed in Philadelphia, cay, by falling from a street car during a scalle between three row- at the direct. The modules were arrested. A large number of Assistant Assessors are

to interrupt communication consents until May.

The Australian and Northern mails passed Orden, board West, at 6 o'cled tale mering. This source the arrival at 8m Particular of the walls on the 1st of March in time for the attended of the Composition of the Memphis and Little Rock and Fore Smith Roads has been rapided under the name of the Memphis. Lettle Rock and Parish Mailman the following Board of Directors: Sam. Tate. C. G. Scott, Amelion of Glowing Board of Directors: Sam. Tate. C. G. Scott, Amelionald, H. L. Bankly, W. N. Farrington, Henry Page, A. T. Lock B. D. Williams, and John Steedard. The lease of the level of the to Southern Security Company from Jan. J. 1973, was signed. These consolidated railway have sive My mires of read forming a direct route to Texas and the Indian country. Mr. Tate was elected President of the new Company.

WASHINGTON.

THE FRENCH ARMS SCANDAL. WHOLE SUBJECT REVIEWED—A NOTABLE EFFORT IN FAVOR OF REFORM EVERYWHERE

-THE HOUSE INAUSTIGATION TO BEGIN TO-

If Mr. Sumner, in opening the long debate in

DAY. WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1872.

tte Senate on the arms scandal, disappointed his friends by his failure to present his case with his usual force and the grandeur of his eloquence, the dignity of his manner, and the strong, convincing light in which his arguments were presented. Old Senators and habitués of the Capito, those who remember some of Mr. Sumner's historical speeches, when, almost alone, he raised his voice against livery on the floor of the Senate, and did it at the perfl of his life, testified to-day, notwithstanding their opposi-tion to the measure he advocated, that they never heard hin make a more powerful, eloquent, or effective speech. Beform was his watchword, and when, in opening, hecalled to memory the hely crusade in the name of Reform that has been carried on in New-York, not only car thieves in the Custom-house, he struck a note that found a response from every one who heard him. His was no political speech. He pleaded for reform, but when he had asked an investigation into suspected buses, the Senator from Indiana (Morton) had seized the party bugle and sounded "To arms," If Senator Schurz had vindicated the Marquis de Chambrun from Scaur had vindeated the Marquis de Charles the insults that had been heaped upon him in this debate, Mr. Sumner yaid him a touching and eloquent tribute. He reviewed his career since his arrival in this country, nd referred in feeling terms to his intimacy with President Lincoln during the last few days of his life, and the faithfulness and honor with which he had discharged the most important duties intrusted to him by his Govern

Mr. Sumner's argument on the resolution contained no new points, but restated the old ones in a striking and rincing way. He spoke about an hour and a half, and left the question in such form that the Administra tion Senators were as unwilling to vote as at any time since the debate began. Mr. Trumbull's motion to reconsider Conkling's amendment was voted down, and then Senator Harian made a most extraordinary speech the New-York Custom house, and Leet & Stocking's management of the General Order business. The Senste adjourned with Carpenter on the floor for a speech to-morrow. The impression is daily gaining round in the best informed circles that the investigation asked for does not go half far enough, and that if an bonest, determined committee were ever to get into the Ordnance Bureau, it, would find enough to occupy it for a of Ordnance with Remington, soon after the former was appointed, and the payment of a claim of more than \$1,000,000 made to Remington after Gen. Dyer's prede cessor had pronounced it filegal, will be an interesting

Remington, in the debate, to-day, remarked that though it was written and dated in November, before the mosting of Congress, and when the Senator from New-York was not in Washington, it was headed U. S. Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C., &c. Hamlin was the Senator who objected to-day to Logan's request that a tow of the hundreds of ladies who could not get in sight of the gallery doors be allowed in the cloak-rooms and on the floor during Mr. Sumner's great speech.

The investigation of the French Arms scandal will be given by a resolution passed in the House on Monday last. The Committee will meet to-morrow morning, to organize Secretary of War will be examined on the same day, as the first witness. The Committee is ordinarily one of the supernumerary committees of the House, which are not ing Committees; solely to increase the number of chair manships. The Republican members of the Committee are Messrs. Williams of Indiana, Barber of Wisconsin, and Bayder of Arkansas. The Democratic members are Messrs. Acker of Pennsylvania, and Kinsella of New-York. The Republicans are understood to be strong Administration men. The Committee have held no meeting in the present Congress, or in any previous Congress within the memory of the oldest members.

the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Several articles, during the last few days, have been published in certain papers of a nature highly calumnious of our reputation. The occasion of their publication is the present political debate upon the

with great reluctance that we feel compelled to ask the insertion of this communication. Yet, a decent regard for public opinion impels us to say that these articles, consisting, as they do, of documents which were, in the first instance, sent to France, for use there, in the interests of M. Place, the late French Consul-General, are not s a person unacquainted with the facts might suppose hy any means new.

We have met them before in the Courts of France on

We have met them before in the Courts of France on the trial of M. Place, and before the French Parliamentary Commission on Contracts, and we have completely refuted them, in every respect. Indeed, a comparison of their allegations with our invoices in the possession of the French Government effectually disposes of them, for the most part, and stamps the rest as utterly unworthy of belief. After having failed in their object there, they are reproduced in La France, the organ of M. Place, and recopied here, for the purpose of effect in the present political strifte. We pronounce them as untrue in every particular, and in their whole scope and meaning, and we await, with entire confidence, the publication of the report of the French Commission to completely exonerate our house from these unjust imputations. Yours, &c.,

New York, &c., E. REMINGTON & SONS. ons. Yours, &c., New-York, Feb. 28, 1872.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL. THE CLEARING-HOUSE BILL RECOMMITTED—A LAND GRANT SCHEME—THE PROPOSED ELEC-

TION OF POSTMASTERS.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.) WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1872.

The Banking and Currency Committee were again un ortunate to-day. Mr. Merriman's bill to facilitate Clearing-house exchanges was attacked on both sides of the House, and was finally recommitted, when it was apparent that it could not be passed. The bill provides apparent that it could not be passed. The bill provides that banks may deposit logal tender hotes in sums of \$10,000 in the Sub-Treasury, receiving certificates of deposit, which may be used as a portion of their reserves, and also, in settling Clearing house balances. Mr. Garfield objected that this would produce a virtual inflation of the currency, by creating a form of paper which would perform all the functions of money for the purposes of bank exchanges. He also opposed the bill as granting privileges to the banks by making the Government the castodian of the money, which citizens in general did not have the advantage of. The argument that the bill was an inflation measure made many members who favor increasing the volume of the currency, look upon it favorably, but what strength it gained from this source was more than balanced by the opposition of the enemies of the banks, who are always watching to attack anything likely to increase their privileges or profits.

After the morning hour was over, the House went to business on the Speaker's table, with the purpose of reaching the St. Croix and Bayfield Railroad Land Grant oill, which was among the Senate bills on the table. A lozen bills on top of it were rapidly disposed of by passage or reference; when the St. Croix bill was read, Mr. Barber of Wisconsin took charge of it, and proposed to allow the opposition only is minutes for debate. Mr. Holman demanded an hour, saying that the bill gave away two millions of acres of public land, worth from five to twenty dollars an acre. Mr. Hazelton and Mr. Banks spoke in favor of the bill, and, without allowing a word to be said on the other side, the previous question was demanded. Whereupon, Mr. Holman resorted to fillbustering. It was plain from the first that there was no chance of defeating the bill. It had been thoroughly lobbled, and the House had been so diligentive canvassed in advance, that it was known how nearly every member would vote. The argument that it was not a new grant but merely a renewal of an old one, was used with effect upon members who made pletiges to their constituents, when last elected, to oppose all land grants. A more disingenuous argument was that if the grants was not renewed the Nerthern Pacific Railread would get a large part of the land, the fact being that the Northern Pacific, if it does not get the land in question, has a right to receive an equal amount elsewiers. Mr. Holman continued his dilar y motions, supported by barely enough members to call the Yeas and Naye, until 4 o'clock, when the House adjourned. The old will unquestionably be passed to morrow. Certain New-York capitalists are interested in the measure, and there are too many powerfun influences at work to leave a doubt of its success. away two millions of acres of public land, worth from The question of making the office of Postmasters elect

we was discussed to-day by the Civil Service Committee of the House, and they will probably report in favor

McCrary of Iowa, which provides that Congress may pass laws for that purpose. There appears to be no objection against giving Congress jurisdiction over the subject, so that, if public opinion demands it, the people may be permitted to choose their postimasters, as they do other local officers. The right of the people to be heard with regard to the appointment of postmasters is already recognized to a considerable extent in the importance given to petitions. Comparatively few appointments are now made unless the applicants are well independently the pointments are now made unless the applicants are well independently the provided by their fellow-citizens, and it often happens that an election is held and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes is recommended by the Congressman representing the District, and is appointed. There is believed to be no scrious obstacle in the way of the election of postmasters, and the friends of Civil Service Reform think it would be a long step in the right direction, because the more the appointing power is limited the less it can be abused.

A scheme for setting apart a strip of country, five miles

A scheme for setting apart a strip of country, five miles in breadth, ruoning across the Indian Territory, from commercial purposes, is urged upon the Hou tee on Indian Affairs. The committee is not disposed to favor the project, and look upon it as a covert plan for getting the land and right of way for a railroad. The route of the proposed road is through the Cherokee and Creek countries, west of the nine-sixth parallel.

The Committee on Pacific Railroads have the morning hour in the House, to-morrow, and will report their bill to give the use of one-half of Goat Island, in the harbor of San Francisco, to the Central Pacific Railroad, for wharves and depots. The bill occasioned a sharp fight wharves and depots. The bill occasioned a sharp fight in the last Congress, and was defeated by a single vote. It has been somewhat modified since then, and Mr. Wheeler, Chairman of the Committee, thinks that the new bill is not open to the same objections arged against the old one, and that it will be passed. No title to the land is given to the Railroad Company, and it is provided that if it should become necessary, in case of war, the Government may reoccupy the whole Island. The privilege proposed to be granted to the railroad is exceedingly valuable, but it is urged that the gain to commerce will be so great that this consideration ought to be given much weight.

The investigation in which the Honse Committee on The investigation in which the House Committee or

the District of Columbia has been engaged for some time touching charges against the Board of Public Works of newspaper men of Washington in regard to charges made for advertising during the past year. The editor of The Chronicle produced bills for advertising amounting to about \$16,000, and for job work to about \$25,000. He testified that he received for advertising the District loan, \$4,593 33, and that the printing of the Legislative Department amounted to \$17,523. He did not think these sums were extravagant for advertising in one paper for the District. The proprietor of The Republican produced bills against the District Government amounting to \$27,230, or which between \$13,000 and \$14,000 has been paid. The Republican received for publishing the laws of the District, \$2,044. Its terms were \$1 per square of four lines, agate. The editor of The Eering Star, which has by far the largest circulation in the city, produced bills for advertising done for the District Government, amounting to \$9,599. The advertising rates of The Star are \$1 per square for four lines ugate. The editor of The Sunday Herald has received from the District Government \$4,422 45. These are but a few of the advertising bills which have been incurred by the District Government \$16,400 the have been incurred by the District Government is noc its establishment less than a year ago, and are held by those whe criticise the management of that Government to sustain the charges of extravagance which have been made against it. newspaper men of Washington in regard to charges

The House, a few days ago, passed a resolution direct ing the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds to make inquiries of the proper officers in Philadelphia as make inquiries of the proper officers in Fhiladelphia as to the cost to the General Government of Independence square and the State-House thereon, as it now stands, to be kept by the General Government as a national monument commemorating the Declaration of Independence. The Committee, at its meeting to-day, directed its Chairman, Mr. Hulsey, to open correspondence with the Mayor of Philadelphia to asceriain what the building and grounds will cost and the conditions upon which the sale will be made.

W. B. Cushing, and his associates who restored the Rebel ram Albermarle, have asked Congress to allow them to have their case reopened before the Court of Claims, and the Senate Naval Committee voted to-day to Claims, and the Senate Naval Committee voted to-day to report a resolution granting their request. It may be remembered that the Albemarle was valued, when the prize-money was distributed, at only about \$70,000, while Cushing and his friends assert that it at was after it was raised worth several hundred thousand. The Committee also voted an amendment to the Naval Appropriation bill, equalizing the pay of Naval Constructors and Civil Engineers in the navy-yards, by making the latter equal to the former.

to the former.

Most of the Senate Committees are doing little work, not because they have no business referred to them, but because the Senate is disposed to do so little. It is useless for the Committees to report measures to it.

Representative sitereuson and Scofield will speak in the New-Hampshire campaign next week.

The Controller of the Currency has called upon the national banks to report their conditions at the close of

The President to-day sent to the Senate the nomination of Robert S. Wallace to be United States Marshal for oth Carolina, and Thomas D. Meads to be Postmaster

at Hancock, Mich.

The Chicago Relief Committee had to-day a final hearing, before the Scuate Committee on Finance, in favor of the bill to remit the duties on building materials for 12 mouths. They insist they should not be required to pay duties on new materials, as they paid duty on those which were destroyed by the late fire. Senator Ferry of Michigan presented to the Committee, on behalf of some manufacturers of Chicago, a protest against the passage of such a bill, as they think it would injure their business. He said he was authorized to offer the sale of lumber from that State at the average cost of lax year, and 10

from that State at the average cost of last year, and 10 days in which to accept the proposition.

Messrs. Naylor & Co. of New-York City appeared before the Secretary of the Treasury, to-day, in reference to the aut for \$200,000, brought against them for alleged violation of revenue laws, being one of the matters which was a subject of examination by the Senate Livestigating Committee in New-York City lately. They claim that the testimony taken before said Committee fully exonerated them from the charge of erindinality, and appealed to Secretary Boutwell to have the suit dismissed.

appenied to Secretary Boutwell to have the suit dismissed.

Mr. Schurz presented numerous memorials from various parts of the United States, with 10,407 signatures, transmitted from the City of Boston, protesting against any amendment to the Constitution incorporating therein the recognition of God or Josus Christ, as an attempt to overthrow the great principle of religious liberty on which this Government was originally founded.

Senator Buckingham has resumed his seat in the Senate, after several weeks' absence, owing to sickness. The New-York Custom-house Investigating Committee, of which he is Chairman, will not meet until Monday next, by which time it is thought Senator Stewart will return from Nevada, and Senator Howe, now convalescent, will be able to attend the meeting of the Committee.

THE SILK INTEREST. Washington, Feb. 28 .- The Committee of

Ways and Means to-day heard a delegation of silk manufacturers and operatives from New-York, New-Jersey Massachusetts, and Connecticut. They exhibited specimens of rew and manufactured silks of all kinds, except ing dress goods, showing the progress of the manufacture in this country, both as to quality and quantity They want the tariff to remain as it is, and say that under the protection afforded by it, aided as it was by the operation of the Anglo-French free trade treaty. the operation of the Anglo-French free trade treaty, this industry has grown as follows: The capital invested has increased from 15,02,000 to 25,000,000. It now affords employment for 16,000 operatives, three-fourths of them women and young persons, for whom such employment is specially adapted, it being clean, light, and healthy. The wages paid these operatives amount to \$1,20,000 per annum, being a weekly average for women of \$7, and for males \$12. One-third of these operatives are immigrants from Europe, and have become teachers for our native-born operatives. As, compared with the above, the wages paid in the Austrian Tyrol for the same kind of work is from 90 cents to \$1 for \$6 hours? work, the operatives having poor shelter and Tyrol for the same kind of work is from 90 cents to 81 for 65 hours' work, the operatives having poor shelter and food, for which each pays 15 cents a week. The delegation admit that silk goods are higher than before 1821 but this is mainly owing to the fact that all raw silks in the contries of production are now more than double the price they were immediately before 1821. One of the delegation—an operative—informed the Committee of Ways and Means that he could save as much here, after living better, as he could earn in the old country. The delegation will next be heard before the Finence Committee.

principal speaker was an Englishman from Mae-The principal speaker was an Englishman from Mac-cleafield, now engaged in giving instruction in silk cul-ture in this country, who said that the Angio-French free trade creaty had injured that interest in England, When asked by Mr. Encoks of New-York what the drig was previous to that time, he replied: "Fritzen per cent; under that whet they were all then doing well." As the manufacturers and operatives who to-day sak that our tarrif and i ranain as it is, it may be of interest to state that the duty is 60 per cent, with raw material free.

A CONUNDEUM FOR SENATOR POMEROY. Po the Latter of The Tribuns.

Siz: The following is a copy of the Pomeroy-Wendell-Legate letter; "UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,)

"United States Fenate Chamber, a Washington, April 16, 1861.
"Dear I to beer I want you to see the F. M. Gel in proceed, and use their to F. O. at Leavenworth, and it be all river to you to day, he may count on my support for the promontone and small either himself or the President get into trouble, even if it be impresiment, they can count on my my act in getting them out, by word and vot only only and you may say so to kim. Don't so home we beat making the trial, and make it in comment. I said for you has night, but reads not find you. But this as soon as you have read it. Very respectfully.

S. C. Pomenov."

Nov. as Canator Pomeroy has frequently charged Le gate with forgery in this matter, I would like to ask through your paper why it is that the Senster new favors the confirmation of Mr. Legate as Governor of Washington Territory. If the charge of forgery is true why should be be confirmed !

MAYOR HALL'S TRIAL.

THE LAWS DELAY ILLUSTRATED. THIRD DAY - ELEVEN JURORS OBTAINED HUMORS OF THE COURT.

The third day of Mayor Hall's trial for life, politically speaking, opened with only half a doz urors in the box, and a hundred or so waiting onte the railing. Mayor Hall came in early, looking bright and cheerful, and his counsel at once grouped themselve about him, and throwing off their overcoats settled lown to the day's work before them, which everybod had concluded, from the exhibit of the day before would prove thresome and unsatisfactory. Precisely as eleven Judge Daly entered the room and took his seal and ten minutes after, the Court was formally opened and the firstiname was called. The result of the first hour proved discouraging, not a single jurer naving been obtained out of eight called. Wm. O. Munroe, James H. Hollinstead, Marks Coreow

ski, Conrad Frieker, Charles Bott, Thornton M. Rodman

Charles A. Kentish, Emil Romer, /James H. Grobestein

and George A. Croke, were found disqualified by reas

aside. Their examinations, with one exception, were entirely uninteresting. The exception was Mr. Kentish late manager of a museum of anatomy tendency of the influences surrounding and permeating that establishment, the jure exhibited a mind as unformed and impres in respect to the question at issue as an infant's. In fact, everybody gazed as curiously at this exhibiter of anatomical monstrosities as they would have done at the specimens themselves. He had only very lately even heard of these charges against the Mayor. He had read the headings of newspapers; but as this literary food the statement was not regarded as a disqua He had never expressed any opinion, and had not even formed one. He was then challenged for favor. His connection with the museum ceased about 10 months ago. He did not retire from it voluntarily, but was and was not preposessed in their favor either. "But," said Mr. Clinton, "you certainly looked at the papers " Yes; but he took no part in politics-although to was formerly a President of the Young Men's General Committee-but he had not opened his mouth to anybody

bers of the Ring!" " No, Sir." Mr. Shafer thought that was a pretty broad question, and wanted his friend Clinton to enlighten him as to what Ring he meant. "Why," said Mr. Clinton, "the same Ring you referred to yesterday." Mr. Shafer-We inaugurated a new theory th

in the subject of whether the city was plundered or not i"
"No, Sir." "Don't you know any of the supposed mem-

Mr. Clinton-Yes, the law changes every day on your For the sake of peace Mr. Clinton asked the jurer if he

knew who were meant by the members of the Ring. The latter knew nothing about it, and had n't bothered his head to find out; had n't the remotest idea. [Laugh-Q. Did you ever hear the names of any persons men

tioned as belonging to the Tammany Ring! A. Not to my recollection. [Laughter.] Q. Have n't you heard the name of Tweed | A. No

[after some hesitation] yes, I have heard his name. O. Are you a tax-payer f A. No, Sir. When the question was put as to whether he had heard that a million of dollars was traced to one of the memsible;" but he had read no affidavits, only statements, and if those statements were made over and over again it

would make no impression on his mind, even if uncontradicted. take advantage of the latitude which had been allowed, despite his objection, in the examination of Mr. Clinton. He accordingly asked if the jurer had read the charges in the papers about Gen. Grant taking bribes! "No. replied he, "hain't paid no attention to it." "You hav the Apollo Hall Democracy, of which my learned friend

Democracy of which Mr. Shafer is a member! A. No.

Q. You don't recomize him as among your tribe, then S. No, Str. [Laughter.]
Q. Did you ever hear of Gen. Grant receiving any presents nurchased with stolen money I. A. No, Str.
Mr. Stoughton here interrupted, and upon Judge Daly's mild suggestion the belligerents subsided, after as short speech from each, in which Mr. Shafer charged that Mr. Clinton was going beyond the proper course of a prosecution and beyond the wishes of his associates, and Mr. Clinton replied that his experience in conducting prosecutions would compare favorably with that of his learned friend, and that his course met the full approval of his associates.

Mr. Clinton replied that his experience in conducting prosecutions would compare favorably with that of his learned friend, and that his course met the full approval of his associates.

The question of the acceptance of the juror was then put to the triers, who, after a short consultation, found the challenge true, and this remarkable illustration of a made-to-order juror vanished in the person of Horatic Reed, a slaughterer in Fortleth st., who was, to all appearance, a most excellent and certainly satisfactory choice. He is an elderly, intelligent gentleman, and he answered the questions fittuly and understandingly. He admitted that he understood the charges, although he had not passed in his mind upon any specific charge; he frankly confessed that he thought he had some blus against the Mayor, which he was afraid it would take evidence to remove; "but," said he, emphatically, "I know I could render an opinion according to the evidence; I have no doubt about it." He voted the Reform, ticket last Fall, but had never contributed a dollar to the cause; was a member of no Reform Association, and did not, to his knowledge, know any member of the Committee of Seventy.

After a close consultation between Mr. Shafer, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Burrill, the latter of whom was evidently, from bis gesticulations, declaring that that jurnal was a good man, Mr. Shafer rose and said that despite the admissions of the juror they were persanded that he was an honest man, and were satisfied with him. Mr. Reed was then sworn in.

James Barbour of No. 221 West Twenty-fifth-st., a retired wholesale liquor merchant, had an idea of this charge against Mayor Hall from what he had heard in court; he had no opinion on the particular charge, but supposed he had one on the seneral charges against him, and thought he had expressed it, but did not think there was any bias on his mind arising from that he dopinion; when heycad the charges they made an impression on his mind, and perhaps it would require some evidence to remove that impression; he

did not remain long, or amount to and he was accepted.

William Roidnson, a plumber of No. 508 West Twenty-third-st., agod 60, had an impression that the Mayor was incusided in the general charges which he read in the newspapers, but wasn't sure, and the defense thereupon withdrow their challenge, and he was accepted and

included in the general charges which he read in every papers, but wasn't sure, and the defense thereupon withdrow their challenge, and he was accepted and sworn.

Nathaniel S. Winne's replies were similar to those of his predecessor. The decision was left to the triers, who found the challenge from Mr. Shafer.

Robert Foster, Lewis S. Davidson, Franklin Goodwin, Win. Ecown, Henry M. Frey, Albert A. Martin and Lewis C. Mar lock were disposed of summarily.

Vin. Edair, Jr., knew what the special charge against the Mayor was, and had formed an opinion, but he made a difference between mere neglect to addit accounts and willinducylect; and this hint was taken by the decrease and the juror was accepted, making it now general, No more were obtained during the day, Tiloss exmuned, however, were Win, H. Willis, John Diel, Win. S. Shote, Daniel Egan, Philip J. Bonk, Lowis B., Shote, Daniel Egan, Philip J. Bonk, Lowis B., Silva, John J. Carl, John M. Cornell, James S. Hiackwood, Michael J. Newman, John H. Vansten, James B., Hiackwood, Michael J. Newman, John H. Vansten, James B., Hingan, George Danean, Joseph E. Monaghan, and they delight the man Hanson, John Otwill, James Price, Albert Call, Thomas Hanson, John Otwill, James Price, Albert M. Jingan, George Danean, Joseph E. Monaghan, and the Cornell was connected with the Cornells who have a sain against the City to recover for iron work done on the New Courthouse, and he was precipitately excused. John Buttler came very near neding taken until Mr. Cinton, having received a timely hint, propo